

folks who have chosen business, finance, banking, marketing, whatever. These guys have chosen a career in the military.

It is a unique career. It is a special service that they provide to this country.

□ 2000

Mr. GUTKNECHT. I am going to close up here. If you have any closing thoughts, Chairman HOEKSTRA, go ahead. Then I am going to close up and yield it back here in just a few minutes.

Mr. HOEKSTRA. No, I appreciate you doing the Special Order. I appreciate you yielding me the time and the opportunity. The one thing we did not talk about was Serbia, that on the way back we stopped in Serbia, so that we had an opportunity to see a part of Iraq that had been divided, that was coming out of a very tough time and after 14 years was prospering.

We then stopped overnight in Serbia, met with the three Presidents in Serbia at Sarajevo; and, again, there is an evolving success story that, 10 years ago, the brutal and the bitter conflict, we still have some troops there. There are a lot of Europeans, more European troops over there, but, again, they have made significant progress.

It takes a while to move from the ethnic religious strife to the steps forward. What is happening in Kosovo, or Serbia, and the region, is that the European Union finally embraced them, they have moved forward, Serbia is moving forward, Kurdistan is moving forward.

What we now also have to have is the modern Islamic or moderate states in the Middle East. They need to embrace Iraq. They need to invest. They need to have their people there, their businesses there, to show that they stand with this new democratically elected government and that they are invested in the success of a new Iraq, in what the people of Iraq are.

It is possible. It is not easy, but there are two examples of how this can work. It was very painful, but by sticking to it and moving through it, you can get to where you want to be.

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want to mention, and I am glad you did bring up the fact that we stopped in Bosnia Herzegovina.

Mr. HOEKSTRA. I forget where I go sometimes.

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Sarajevo. I was in Sarajevo 10 years ago, and at that time the city was essentially in, the center city, essentially rubble. Many buildings had large pockmarks. Some of them are still there. Many, though, have been fixed; and it now is a vibrant city.

If I had predicted 10 years ago that we would see the life in the city that we saw, a lot of people said it cannot happen.

Mr. HOEKSTRA. But you can walk down, what is it called, Sniper Alley?

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Yes, Sniper Alley.

Mr. HOEKSTRA. That we could walk down Sniper Alley Sunday night, and that we could walk through the streets of Sarajevo in Bosnia, and that we could walk through the streets of Bosnia on Monday morning, and, you know, that it was a vibrant city, people sitting at the cafes, drinking coffee and getting their country moving forward. Again, problems, high unemployment rate, slow economic development, but secure.

Mr. GUTKNECHT. I think we should share the story that the general told us about the man who worked at the military facility there. Every day, when he would come to work, he would stop, and this is a Bosnian individual, he would stop and salute the American flag.

Then he would say a prayer. When he would leave work that night, he would again salute the American flag. They had a special ceremony that finally, the general said, we need to do something for that guy. So they presented him with a U.S. flag, one of these little wood cases that we have around here.

When they presented it, he literally, with tears running down his cheeks, he said, I thank God every day for America and what America did to bring peace to this city, because it was America that saved us from that war.

Mr. HOEKSTRA. It is why they are nervous about us pulling our final troops out, because we are the ones that have earned their trust, and they still look to you, and I both hope and pray for the day where the same type of result, as we see in Kosovo, as we see in Bosnia, that we can see that same kind of result in the rest of Iraq.

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think there are reasons to be optimistic. But I want to close with this quote. I started with this quote tonight:

"Do not try to do too much with your own hands . . . It is their war, and you are to help them, not win it for them." That quote is from T.E. Lawrence, better known as Lawrence of Arabia.

In some respects, I think it is prophetic. We can only do so much in Iraq. We are doing our share. Our military is doing a marvelous job. The next step, Mr. Chairman, is up to the Iraqis.

#### LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Ms. MCKINNEY (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today.

Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today on account of personal reasons.

#### SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Ms. WOOLSEY) to revise and ex-

tend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. EMANUEL, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. WOOLSEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. MORAN of Virginia, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. PALLONE, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. KAPTUR, for 5 minutes, today.

Mrs. MALONEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. LEE, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. POE) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. POE, for 5 minutes, today and July 27.

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. GUTKNECHT, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. BURGESS, for 5 minutes, today.

#### ADJOURNMENT

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 8 o'clock and 3 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until Monday, July 24, 2006, at 12:30 p.m., for morning hour debate.

#### EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 8 of rule XII, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

8703. A letter from the Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Installations and Environment, Department of Defense, transmitting Notice of the decision to conduct a standard competition of the support services function performed by civilian personnel in the Department of the Navy for possible performance by private contractors, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 2461; to the Committee on Armed Services.

8704. A letter from the Under Secretary for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics, Department of Defense, transmitting an annual report entitled, "Defense Acquisition Challenge Program: Fiscal Year 2005," pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 2359b(i); to the Committee on Armed Services.

8705. A letter from the Under Secretary for Domestic Finance, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the annual report on the Resolution Funding Corporation for calendar year 2005, pursuant to Public Law 101-73, section 501(a) (103 Stat. 387); to the Committee on Financial Services.

8706. A letter from the Chairman and President, Export-Import Bank, transmitting a report on transactions involving U.S. exports to Thailand pursuant to Section 2(b)(3) of the Export-Import Bank Act of 1945, as amended; to the Committee on Financial Services.

8707. A letter from the Chairman, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's report on progress made in licensing and constructing the Alaska Natural Gas Pipeline, pursuant to Section 1810 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

8708. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a